

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 /017 W
----- 089201

P R 070737Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1137

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USDOC WASHDC

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

UNCLAS JIDDA 3211

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CORRECT GARBLED TEXT IN PARAGRAPH
4. (C) LINE FOUR)

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, XF

SUBJ: DESALINATION MISSION

REF : (A) STATE 99706; (B) USDOC 5716; (C) JIDDA 2786

1. REPLY TO REF A DELAYED BECAUSE OF CONFUSION OVER

AVAILABILITY OF PRINCE MOHAMMED. HE WILL BE OUT OF
COUNTRY DURING DATES PROPOSED BY REF A, BUT HAS AGREED
TO RECEIVE MISSION (PROBABLY IN JIDDA) ON MAY 28 RPT
MAY 28. AS SAUDI ARABIA APPEARS TO BE THE KEY COUNTRY,
TRUST THAT SCHEDULE CAN BE ADJUSTED ACCORDINGLY.

2. WITH REGARD TO COMMENTS IN PARAS 2 AND 3 OF REF B,
PRINCE MOHAMMED'S PROCLAIMED INTEREST IN ADVANCING STATE
OF THE ART MUST NOT BE CONFUSED WITH HIS FIRM COMMITMENT
TO TRIED AND PROVEN TECHNOLOGY FOR HIS 5-YEAR PLAN PRO-
GRAM. IF AND WHEN SAG PUTS MONEY INTO R&D PROGRAMS,
FLEXIBLE FINANCING CAN BE A TOPIC OF DISCUSSION. WITH
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ONE MINOR EXCEPTION, HOWEVER, THE MANDATED 5-YEAR PROGRAM

SPECIFIES EXCLUSIVELY THE HOARY MSF TECHNIQUE, AND THERE IS LITTLE PROSPECT OF PRINCE MOHAMMED OR SAG BEING WILLING TO COUNTENANCE ANY LESS WELL-PROVEN SYSTEM. PRINCE'S INTEREST IN ESTABLISHMENT OF A RESEARCH CENTER OR OTHER SPONSORING OF R&D WORK IS A COMPLETELY SEPARATE ISSUE.

3. PRINCE MOHAMMED HAS REQUESTED THAT COMPANIES COME PREAPRED TO ANSWER ONE QUESTION SPECIFICALLY: HOW MANY FIVE MILLION GALLON PER DAY MSF UNITS CAN THEY SUPPLY? (BECAUSE OF CURRENT DESIGN STATE-OF-THE-ART, PLANS ARE TO IMPLEMENT 20 AND 30 MILLION GPD PROJECTS VIA FIVE MILLION GPD UNITS.)

4. FURTHER COMMENTS PROVIDED BY HIS HIGHNESS:

(A) HE IS BEING PRESSURED TO CONDENSE IMPLEMENTATION OF HIS FIVE-YEAR PLAN INTO A THREE-YEAR PERIOD.

(B) SCOPE OF NEXT FIVE-YEAR PLAN (1980-85) MAY BE DOUBLE THAT OF THE PRESENT ONE.

(C) CONTRARY TO EARLIER ASSUMPTION OF EMBASSY, THE \$10 BILLION ESTIMATED BUDGET (AT 1974 PRICES) OF THE PLAN IS FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT ONLY AND DOES NOT RPT NOT INCLUDE ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING COSTS, WHICH RAISE THE TOTAL PLAN ESTIMATE TO \$14 BILLION.

COMMENT: GIVEN LOCAL LOGISTICS AND OTHER EXTERNAL CONDITIONS, IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE THAT MORE THAN A FRACTION OF THE PLAN CAN BE DEVELOPED IN FIVE, MUCH LESS THREE YEARS.

5. POUCHING COPY OF BOOKLET JUST ISSUED WHICH GIVE COMPREHENSIVE PROJECT-BY-PROJECT OUTLINE OF PLAN.
AKINS

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